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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7566
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INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES
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TAGS: <u>EAGR ECON ETRD EU AU</u>

SUBJECT: EU JUNE 8 STANDING COMMITTEE VOTE ON BIOTECH VARIETIES -

AUSTRIA REMAINS FIRMLY IN "NO" CAMP

REF: STATE 74307

11. On June 1, post conveyed reftel talking points to Ulrich Herzog, Head of the Ministry of Health's Department for Consumer Health (lead office), to Hans Kordik, Head of the Ministry of Agriculture's Department for EU Coordination, and to Gabriela Habermayer, Head of the Ministry of Economics' Department for Multilateral Trade.

12. On June 5, we followed up with Kordik who said that Austria would remain opposed to approval of the varieties. In Kordik's view, the GoA is bound by a unanimous parliamentary resolution that presently opposes any approval of new biotech corn varieties.

MCCAW#